

THE Talon



OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE

3 Survive Mine



Soldiers inspect the HMMWV after the mine strike.

Photo by 55th Combat Camera

By Staff Sgt. Ken Hudson
129th MPAD

Three soldiers of the 519th Military Police Battalion walked away from an explosion after their vehicle drove over a mine on a small country road near Brcko during a routine patrol. The up-armored

X-M-1114 HMMWV they were in, however, had to be towed away as the right-front wheel was broken from its axle and engine parts were scattered across the road.

Pvt. Jason Tippet, Spc. Douglas Callicotte and Pfc. Jason Garland, members of the 293rd Military Police Company were in the lead vehicle in a patrol along Main Supply Route "Pear," a road in their sector of responsibility, just before 1 a.m. Monday when the mine strike occurred.

The soldiers were treated and release from the Camp Colt aid station and given time to rest and recuperate.

Callicotte, the team leader for the three-man crew recalled his initial reaction to the explosion. "My driver

swerved to miss a pothole, and the next thing I see is a bright flash to my right side out the window, there's a loud explosion, everything in the truck goes black. We got out and I saw that the front part of the truck was destroyed," he said.

The driver that night, Garland said he knew to avoid driving on the shoulders of roads in Bosnia. "I knew there were still mines out there," he said. "I stay away from the edges of the road. I was in the center of the road and still hit one. You've always got to be aware."

"We happened to be the unlucky ones to drive over the wrong bump at the wrong time," said 2nd Lt.

See EXPLOSION page 12

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You might be a soldier if ... cont'd

..you convince your wife all ten of your guns are necessary for home protection.

..you have more money invested in TA-50 than your car.

..you tell your kids to go to bed at 2100 and they try to explain that it's only nine o'clock.

..the allotment column of your LES has more entries than the entitlement column.

..no one understands the stories you tell because of all the acronyms.

..you can explain the Gettysburg battlefield better than directions to your house.

..your kids know the words to "she wore a yellow ribbon".

..your two-year old calls everyone in BDUs "daddy".

..the phone book lists your rank instead of Mr.

..your spouse hasn't unpacked the good china for twenty years.

..you ruin the movie for everyone around you by pointing out the unrealistic military scenes.

..you live on post so you can hear reveille every morning.

..your family calls you "Sir".

..all your jokes begin with "there was this soldier, a marine and an airman..."

..while walking, you look at people's covers as you pass before you look at their faces.

..you get upset when "The Star Spangled Banner" isn't played before movies.

LAYING DOWN THE LAWS

Deployment presents an environmental challenge to soldiers to keep their weapons and weapon systems clean. They must endure rain, mud, snow and dirt, all factors detrimental to the function of a weapon system or M-16.

Soldiers struggle and work hard to keep their equipment clean. This is important -- it is the equipment that helps them do their job and keep them safe. Soldiers do preventative maintenance checks and services on vehicles to ensure top performance. PMCS must be done on weapons as well.

Clean weapons thoroughly at least weekly. Even when not fired, they should be taken apart, cleaned and oiled as regular maintenance. If cleaning the weapon is not an organized squad level task, get together with a buddy and help each other. Noncommissioned officers should inspect and check the weapon for cleanliness.



We were issued ammunition, and carry at least two magazines of ammo. NCOs need to inventory those magazines on a regular basis. Inspect the ammo rounds for damage and accountability. Match the number of rounds issued to a soldier with the rounds tallied on the books.

Many soldiers use tape on the muzzle or muzzle covers -- this is a dangerous practice. If you need to fire your weapon, any obstruction could cause a malfunction. Keep your weapon free to function. Remember, we train as we fight.

This is a long deployment -- it is easy to get complacent about routine tasks such as cleaning our weapons. But we, as soldiers, must continue to be responsible for the maintenance and accountability of all weapons, weapon systems and other sensitive items.

-- **Command Sgt. Maj. James W. Laws,**
1st Infantry Division

Recreational Safety

Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner. With the onset of warmer weather, recreational activities will begin to pick up. Sports and recreation are an integral part of the American way of life. They provide a process through which the Army can help build and maintain an effective fighting force.

However, sports and recreational accidents rank second only to privately owned vehicle accidents as a major cause of injury to soldiers. Sports and recreational injuries cost the Army millions of dollars each year through the loss of millions of man-hours of work.

Recreational safety means taking part in leisure activities for fun and health, while avoiding injuries and accidents. The following rules should be adhered to before engaging in recreational activities:

- * Get in shape
- * Choose exercises appropriate for your age and physical condition
- * Start out slowly, increasing exercise periods gradually
- * Start with a warm up period, finish with a cool down period
- * Know your limit
- * Dress appropriately for the activity and conditions

Every activity has potential for accident or injury. Be aware of the hazards and follow basic safety rules before participating in these activities. Have fun and exercise your body, but also exercise your mind with hazard identification and risk assessment, and stay safe.

Lt. Col. J.D. Dillon, Safety Officer

The Talon

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299th unsung heroes shine

By Sgt. Steven S. Collins
129th MPAD

EAGLE BASE -- Peacekeeping missions include soldiers in a number of high visibility positions like guarding busy checkpoints or helping displaced refugees. Behind these soldiers, unsung heroes make the mission possible and often go unnoticed.

In the 299th Forward Support Battalion, soldiers spend endless hours maintaining and repairing the vehicles used to ensure the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia continues. On Feb. 11, several of these unsung heroes were honored for helping give the 299th maintenance companies an outstanding score on the recent Personnel Maintenance Logistics Evaluation, a test of the battalion's ability to do the internal tasks given to it, such as keeping personnel records and maintaining equipment.

The 299th received commendable scores in 20 of 24 areas evaluated, the highest score achieved in the 1st Infantry Division in three years. "I knew we would do well, but I didn't think we would do as well as we did. We are all very proud of the scores,"

said Chief Warrent Officer Terry L. Grant, battalion maintenance technician.

Grant, of Savanna, Ga., instituted a number of incentive programs to get soldiers motivated for the evaluation. For example, the operator with the best vehicle during a weekly inspection was given a pass to Budapest. "Those incentives got the people thinking about PMCS (preventative maintenance checks and services) and about taking pride in their equipment. Our goal was to get the people to treat the equipment as if it was their own," said Grant.

The programs worked -- each company was more than ready for the PMLE. "Our soldiers had a lot of confidence," said Sgt. 1st Class Reginald B. White of Houston, Texas, motor sergeant for Company B. "I was pretty impressed with how they did. The many hours of preparation paid off."

Since the evaluation, morale has been high and soldiers seem to work even harder, said Shier, who is from Leesburg, Fla.

"It was a good feeling to do as well as we did. We have a bunch of good people working here," he said.

News briefs

SFOR ID Cards

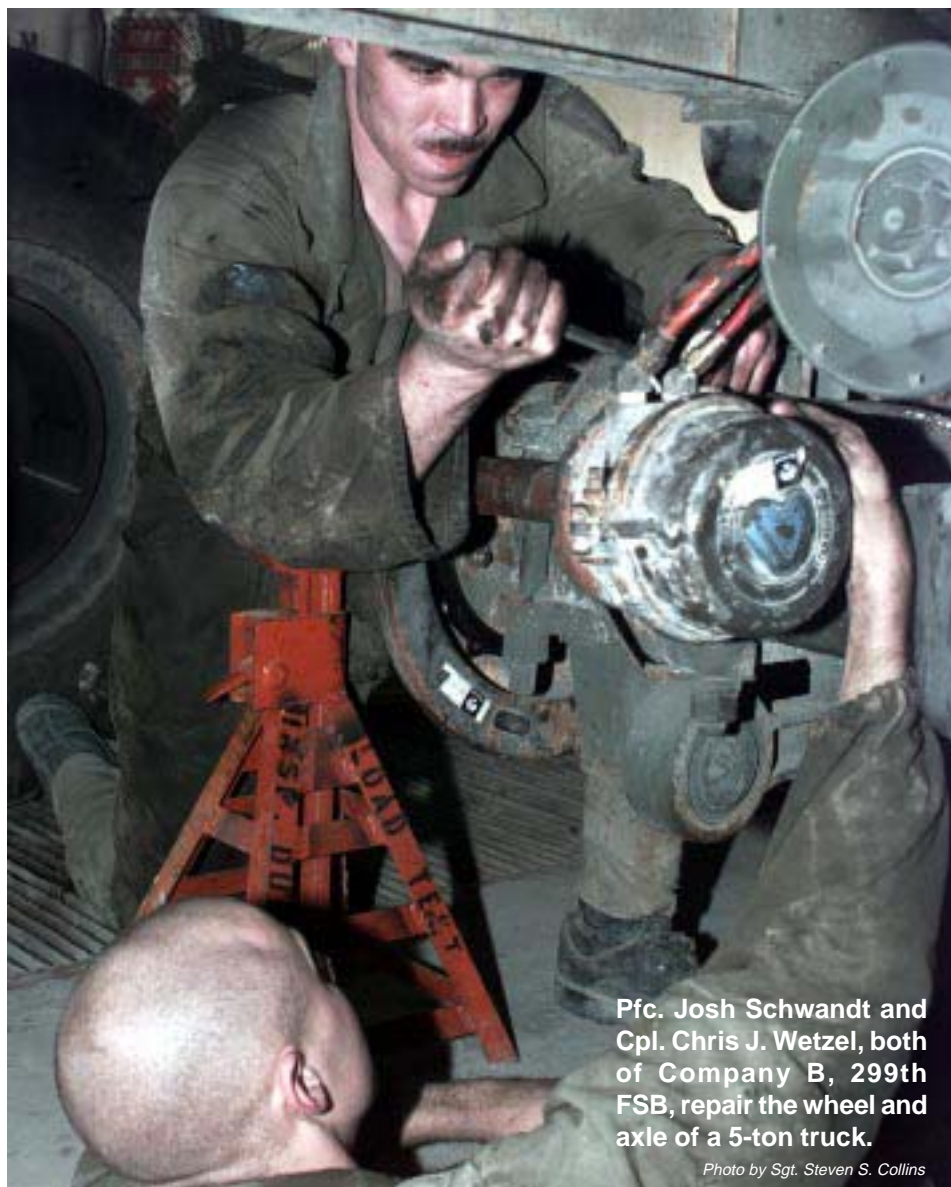
Task Force 38 has begun to issue SFOR ID Cards to Task Force Eagle personnel. They plan to complete the mission by Feb. 28, 1997 when current IFOR ID Cards expire.

The SFOR ID Card expiration date is determined from unit or individual movement orders, temporary change of station orders or temporary duty orders.

A completed Request For Issue of SFOR ID Card form is required to receive a SFOR ID card. In addition, if the unit/soldier does not have a copy of orders bringing them into theater in support of SFOR operations, the soldier must provide a letter from the command or agency that deployed him or her stating they are in support of SFOR operation, length of deployment, unit of assignment, and point of contact. The letter must be signed by the individual and person who authorized the deployment.

TF 38 teams will be located at different camps to issue cards.

If you need more information, or you have questions, call: MSE 553-7261 or 553-7270/7261.



Pfc. Josh Schwandt and Cpl. Chris J. Wetzl, both of Company B, 299th FSB, repair the wheel and axle of a 5-ton truck.

Photo by Sgt. Steven S. Collins

Building Peace to Last

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

In America, scars of our Civil War lasted for generations, with lingering effects remaining today. Bosnia may be no different. Peace does not come automatically when the fighting stops. Despite the end of bloodshed, the task of uprooting hatred to plant the seeds of friendship takes a continuous, determined effort.

"The message of peace has to be built now so it will last when we are gone. We go out everyday to build these bridges," said Maj. Ed Burley, Task Force 1-26 PSYOP Commander, with the 11th PSYOP Battalion from the Washington D.C area.

Burley recalls a situation that occurred in Mahala during the introduction of Republic of Srpska police into the Muslim village. He and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Gonzales, senior PSYOP noncommissioned officer, also with the 11th PSYOP, were speaking to a group of Muslim men while waiting for the RS police to arrive. Both factions were uncertain of the outcome because of violent incidents last year. As the RS police approached the village, one Muslim man asked Burley, "What would you do if I took a stick and hit one of the policemen?"

"It would be braver of you to instead say good morning," Burley answered. Amazingly enough, everyone in the crowd agreed. In fact, most of the Muslims greeted the RS police in this manner and in turn received a genuinely friendly response. "The ice was broken," Burley said. "One Muslim actually ran over to shake the hand of one RS policeman because it turned out these two

men were friends before the war. It was great to see the renewal of bonds. The townspeople realized that perhaps they could rebuild relationships lost during the war."

The PSYOP mission throughout the country is to distribute factual information to all factions so that the common people have accurate news regarding Brcko and other heated decisions made during the peace process. Dissemination tools include a wide variety of media avenues such as posters, the Herald of Peace newspaper, pamphlets and radio and TV spots produced in Sarajevo by the PSYOP Production team. TF 1-26 Commander Lt.Col. Robin Swan also participates in live interviews hosted by local civilian radio stations to answer questions for the public regarding activities of TF 1-26 and Stabilization Forces.

Recently, a PSYOP mission took place in Kalesija, a small town neighboring Camp Dobol. Products and posters were displayed in public places to reinforce peace, prosperity and freedom of movement, including one that read "Don't let

rumors or agitators hamper the peace process." The team stayed on the alert for propaganda that may be used to incite the civilian populous regarding Dugi Dio or Brcko, two towns where resettlement by Muslims has brought them in daily contact with Serbs.

So far, the overall reaction to the products and missions has been favorable. "Right now the people are concerned about the Brcko decision," Burley said. However, the general consensus is that people are happy that SFOR is here and peace has at last settled on the war torn countryside.

**"What would you do if I
took a stick and hit one
of the policemen?"**

----- unidentified Muslim man



Sgt. David W. Jackson, 305th PSYOPS Bn, puts up a poster in Kalesija promoting peace during the Brcko Arbitration in Bosnia.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

Muslims -- meet RS police. RS police -- Muslims.



Soldiers hand out fliers to Dugi Dio residents.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark L. Geiger

By Staff Sgt. Mark L. Geiger
300th MPAD

DUGI DIO, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- A common theme of cooperation -- played out across the Zone of Separation -- quietly took place in Dugi Dio last week where a Republic of Srpska Police patrol, along with the International Police Task Force, were introduced to the settlers of the Muslim village.

Details for the introduction were hashed out by U.S. and Russian SFOR officials during a meeting hosted by Russian Col. Aleksandr Mihailovich Pavlusiohenko.

Dugi Dio Mayor Alija Muskic met the RS police in the morning and walked them, along with IPTF and Stabilization Force officials, through the village.

During the tour Muskic and the RS police decided on placement of a container/trailer, which will be used by the police during their patrols to rest and keep warm.

"Peaceful integration of RS police presence into the town of Dugi Dio is necessary for the stabilization of tension in the Sapna Region," said Maj. Gen. Montgomery C. Meigs, Task Force Eagle commander. Implementation of the RS patrol will enable the police to exercise control over RS territory and provide security for the

Bosniac population of Dugi Dio.

"The introduction went off without a glitch today," said Maj. Bob Arnet, Russian Brigade Civil Affairs Team chief. Civil Affairs personnel played a key role ensuring that all parties involved knew what was happening.

"She was afraid. I told her it's all about peace, we're here to help and we care about her future"

----- Lt. Col. Jack Farr

The implementation process is the result of months of coordination and meetings between SFOR soldiers and Dugi Dio residents. Flyers were passed out prior to the RS police introduction in Dugi Dio. The flyers explained that persons who re-occupy Dugi Dio homes shall be subject to all laws of the Republika Srpska, provided the laws are in accordance with the Bosnia-

Herzegovina Constitution and Dayton Peace Accord.

The flyer also included details concerning the United Nations International Police Task Force's authority to undertake joint patrols with the local RS police when deemed necessary or appropriate. The flyer also stated that weapons are not permitted within the ZOS, and civilian police officers are permitted to carry side arms in the zone while in uniform in the line of duty.

"The goal is to get everyone to accept that it can be a multi-ethnic country, and it can work," said Lt. Col. Jack Farr, 486th Civil Affairs Bn., executive officer. "everyone is apprehensive that it may go back to the way it was during the civil war."

While handing out information pamphlets to Dugi Dio residents, two days prior to the introduction of the RS patrol, Farr would say, "Mir-Sada," meaning peace now. One female resident was moved to share a bowl of apples following her meeting with the U.S. troops. "She was afraid. I told her it's all about peace, we're here to help and we care about her future," said Farr.

"The apples helped validate the fact that she knew we were sincere and she acknowledged it. It was a breakthrough," said Farr.

Patrolling the pe

By Sgt. Steven S. Collins
129th MPAD

Security at Tuzla Main Base involves walking the perimeter, manning observation posts and patrolling roads. But base security also involves getting to know local residents, which members of the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery do every two weeks to learn more about activity in the area surrounding Tuzla Base.

"We go out to see how the local residents and refugees are feeling and how they feel about us," said Sgt. 1st Class James R. Kiehl, a platoon sergeant in the 4/3 ADA. "It also gives us a chance to get outside the perimeter and to meet some of the people who we're here to help."

Kiehl's platoon traveled to the Tomici area Feb. 12 to meet with refugees who recently came to the area, which is within five kilometers of Tuzla Main's southeast corner. The platoon stopped along the route to give candy and valentines to children and discuss issues with refugee leader Saban Alibasic.

While duty on the wire is monotonous, the trips outside the base give soldiers a chance to interact with the local residents.

Giving goodies is fun for the soldiers, but it also has a practical effect, said Kiehl. The refugees learn to trust the Americans and are more willing to identify areas where problems might occur.

"We meet with the refugee leaders and learn their attitudes, what their plans are, how many are out here and other important information," said Kiehl. "Knowing what's out here can help us plan our security inside the base."

"Out here, we keep a high state of readiness, because we need to take things seriously," said Kiehl. "Interacting with these people is nice, but I tell my soldiers that they need to be aware of everything that happens out here."

Kiehl also said anyone leaving Tuzla Main for other areas or base camps should be aware of their surroundings. While on base, all soldiers need to be conscious of the security happening 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

From top left, clockwise -- 1st Sgt. Bobby J. Brown gives treats to refugees..., Brown gives a valentine to a refugee child..., Refugees in the Tomici area received treats and valentines from soldiers on patrol..., Sgt. 1st Class James R. Kiehl gives a convoy brief before an external patrol..., Refugees share their valentines with each other.



rimeter



Message of Peace

By Spc. Paul Hougdaahl
129 MPAD

A handshake, a smile, a strong cup of coffee, a look of apprehension and even a shed tear or two.

It's all part of a typical day for the Army Reserve soldiers from the 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, Pensacola, Fla., stationed at Camp Colt.

A large portion of the civil affairs mission is to show a Stabilization Force presence. The 361st walk the streets of towns such as Odzac and Gradacac and talk to police chiefs, mayors and the locals.

"That's what we do best, go out and meet people, to give a good SFOR impression," said Capt. Wilfredo Rosario, 478th CA Battalion, Miami, Fla. "There is so much we can show them about not going back to war. We bring a message of peace."

They get an indicator as to what the peoples' attitudes are on such issues as the Brcko Arbitration and resettlement, Rosario said. They look for anything unusual, any kind of movement — for example a gathering of people and buses that would indicate a demonstration. They try to get a sense of how the people are feeling and the concerns they have.

"Their hospitality has been incredible, from all nationalities. They bring us in and we'll tell them what we are doing around there, we make sure they understand we are trying to follow the Dayton Peace Accord," said Rosario. "They had a peaceful year while IFOR (Implementation Force) was here -- I think they are at a point where they don't want to go back to war, they have experienced peace. Many changes are happening around them, projects are going on and people are going back to work and hopefully that's what they want to do. We'll see in a year, when SFOR leaves, what's going to happen -- we can't tell."

The current mission involves working with the people on the resettlement of the municipality of Modricki Lug, where there are approximately 600 Serbian refugees living in homes that were occupied by Muslims before the war. Recently 116 of these Muslim families have received permission from the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to move back to

"I think they are at a point where they don't want to go back to war, they have experienced peace."

----- Capt. Wilfredo Rosario

these homes.

The 361st soldiers are going door-to-door asking people who live there what their background is and if they wish to return to the area where they originally lived. They do this to map out the area for a better idea of future resettlement concerns.

At this time there is no place for these people to go, and the soldiers are trying to assist international organizations in the effort to relocate these people.

The refugees know they might have to leave these homes, and so may be hostile when SFOR soldiers appear.

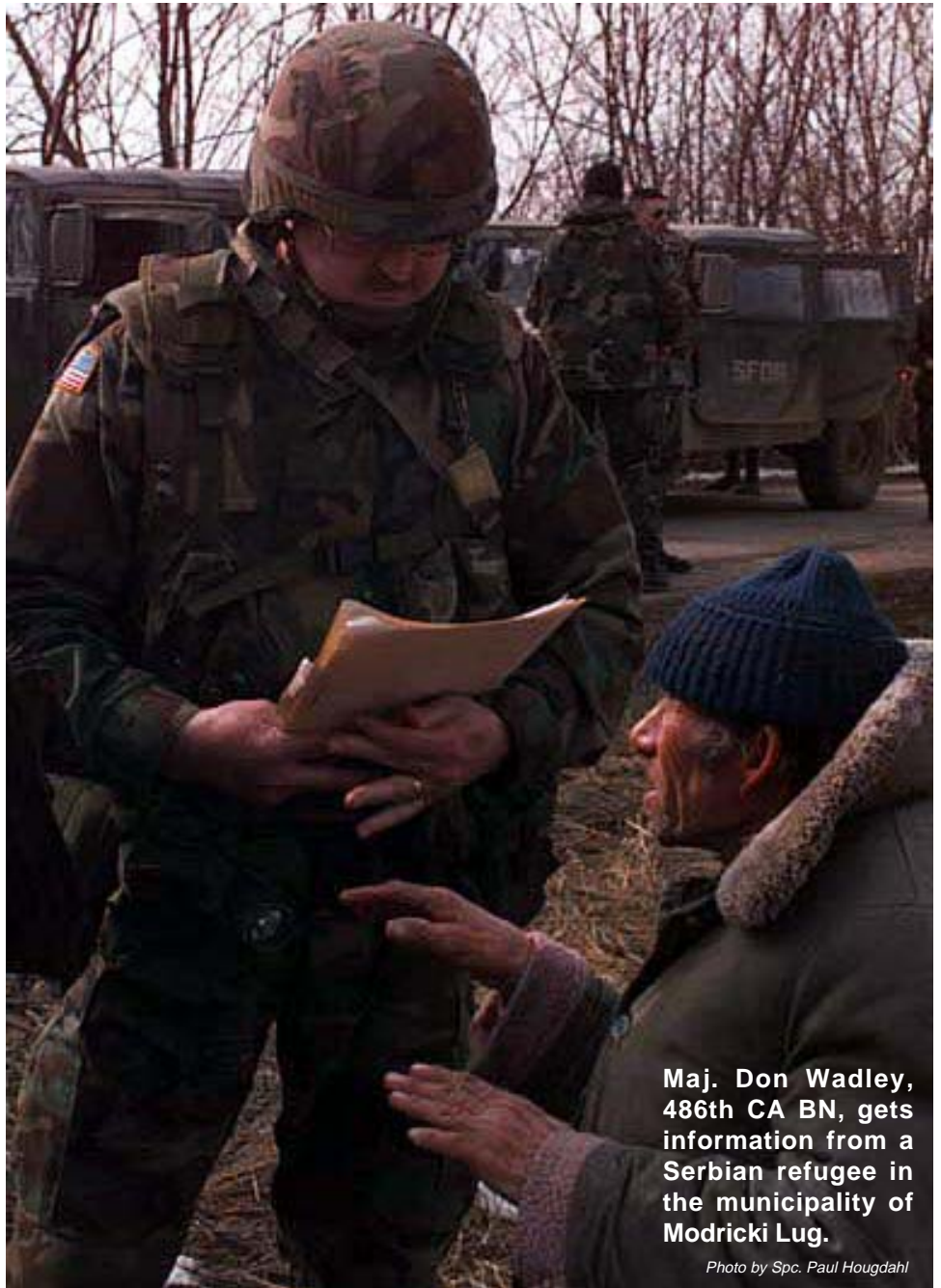
"No one wants to leave their homes, and people just getting out of a war are going to be a lot more drastic in the measures they are going to take. We don't know if

we are going to knock on a door and be face-to-face with the muzzle of a weapon", said Hall. "So far the people have responded very well, a lot better than we expected. We had a chance to sit down and talk with some people, drink some coffee and ask them how their lives have been."

There are other areas within the TF 519th area of operation that are looking towards resettlement, Rosario said. He hopes all the hard work in Modricki Lug will pay off, and what they learn there will help when other areas are resettled.

The terrible effects of the war really hit home for Pfc. Hall when a Serbian woman he was talking with started to cry when speaking of her two sons. One of them is in Croatia and is afraid to come and live with her while the other one cannot be found.

"There's really not enough words to describe it, it was a feeling of helplessness not being able to help her," said Hall. "Maybe next time we'll go by and see what we can do to help her out."



Maj. Don Wadley, 486th CA BN, gets information from a Serbian refugee in the municipality of Modricki Lug.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdaahl

519th MPs bring order to arms

By Spc Paul Hougdaahl
129th MPAD

Imagine walking into a room filled with weapons, and then telling the owners of those weapons you were going to take some of them away.

One of many tasks performed by Task Force 519th Military Police Battalion at Camp Colt, this task -- inspection of Named Area of Interest sites -- is quite possibly one of the most challenging.

The 519th MPs inspect each of the approximately 40 former warring factions' weapon storage sites once a month. They look not just for the total amount of weapons but for changes in inventory from month to month. Factions are allowed to have certain quantities of arms in approved sites, but must follow Dayton Peace Accord rules for moving or training with them, and may face confiscation of weapons if they violate those rules or if the inventory changes.

What makes this task very difficult is that the storage facilities are often very chaotic. After the war ended the facilities were hastily put together and are located in barns, sheds, garages, churches and even active schools. Some are as small as a few rifles and machine guns while others take up a large warehouse. Crates are often stacked from floor to ceiling and from front to back making it very difficult to inventory them.

The MPs use sound technical and organizational skills in order to correctly identify and catalog many different kinds of weapons. The factions have weapons made in several different countries including Russia, Spain, China and the United States, some of which are WWI-era. Each weapon, round and explosive device must be accounted for and matched to the previous month's inventory list.

"We attempt to assist them as best we can in terms of proper accountability and storage procedures and to group appropriate items together", said Lt.Col. Charles Bradley Jr., 519th commander. "What we see in many of these storage sites still is that after the war they just threw things into the sites."

"We account for every round, we open every box," said Staff Sgt. Ronald Copeland, a squad leader with the 258th MP Company attached to the 519th. "That way we know where everything is at and when you come back you know if something has been moved. Everything has to be tightly controlled so war doesn't start over. They won't have the means to get at it."

Diplomacy is very important when dealing with the factions and their weapon sites. The junior officers and noncommissioned officers of the 519th take a

major role in this as they operate at the squad level. Each squad has its own area of responsibility, deals with the same factions every day and have developed good working relationships with them.

"They do an absolutely superb job of that," said Bradley of their diplomacy. "These junior officers and NC's are representing the U.S. Army."

The diplomacy and organizational skills of the 519th were tested during a recent named area of interest inspection when 26 M-72 machine guns and a crate of C-4 type explosive were confiscated from a weapon storage site. The machine guns were not on the previous months' inven-

tories and only 78 individual packages of explosives were in a crate that previous records showed had 98.

At that time it was imperative to have good records of previous inspections to prove what was at the site before and therefore follow the Dayton Peace Accord rules for confiscation. It was also important to handle the faction military leaders who were not happy with the situation.

"We had what could have been a very difficult situation; however, it was handled very professionally," said Bradley. "The junior Officers and NCOs of the United States Army are doing unparalleled work out there."



SGT, Robert Eastman, 293rd MP CO, from the 519 MP BN operating out of Camp Colt inspects a homemade grenade launcher during a weapon site inspection.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdaahl

Robinson: Spiritual fitness trainer

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

It's hard not to be swept up in the excitement during the Gospel church service at Camp Dobol. The event is a lively celebration of hand-clapping, foot-stomping joy. And preaching from the pulpit is the battalion's motor sergeant, Master Sgt. Arlee Robinson Jr., of Task Force 1-26.

Robinson, an Atlanta native, is a man of two callings: a straight-forward noncommissioned officer in Task Force 1-26 and a spiritual leader in Christian ministry.

"God is perfecting my ministry as time goes by. I stay rooted and grounded in God by reading and studying, fasting and praying and being lead by the Holy Spirit. As I do this, God blesses myself and the ministry," he said. "In the Army, as leaders and soldiers, we strive for many things. We need to be physically fit, mentally fit and also spiritually fit."

Robinson grew up in a Christian background. However, after joining the military, the Army took precedence in his life. Once married, his wife Martha began attending church and he soon followed. Robinson, the father of three boys, Anthony, Jamal and Aberly, accepted Christ back into his life in May 1986 and heard the call to preach in 1994 while at Fort Stewart. The next year while in Schweinfurt, Germany, he began ministering.

"I enjoy encouraging soldiers. Sometimes they don't feel appreciated, so a pat on the back goes a long way. I struggled and turned wrenches in the mud just like everyone else here in the motor pool," Robinson said. "I progressed through the

ranks by staying focused. Both the God and the Army recognize hard work."

Robinson is proud of the accomplishments made by Task Force 1-26 in Bosnia. "My soldiers are highly motivated and dedicated to duty here. I would definitely

serve with them again in any mission that is handed down to us," he said. "Anyone can see the good results in our sector. The kids wave to us. On a beautiful day, people are outside enjoying themselves or working to rebuild their homes."

If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again

By Chap. (Maj.) Michael P. Hartzheim

Mistakes. We all make them. But it's not whether or not we make mistakes; it's what we do with the mistakes we make. Do we learn from them or grow from them? Or, when we have our hands slapped, do we give up, quit, or stop trying?

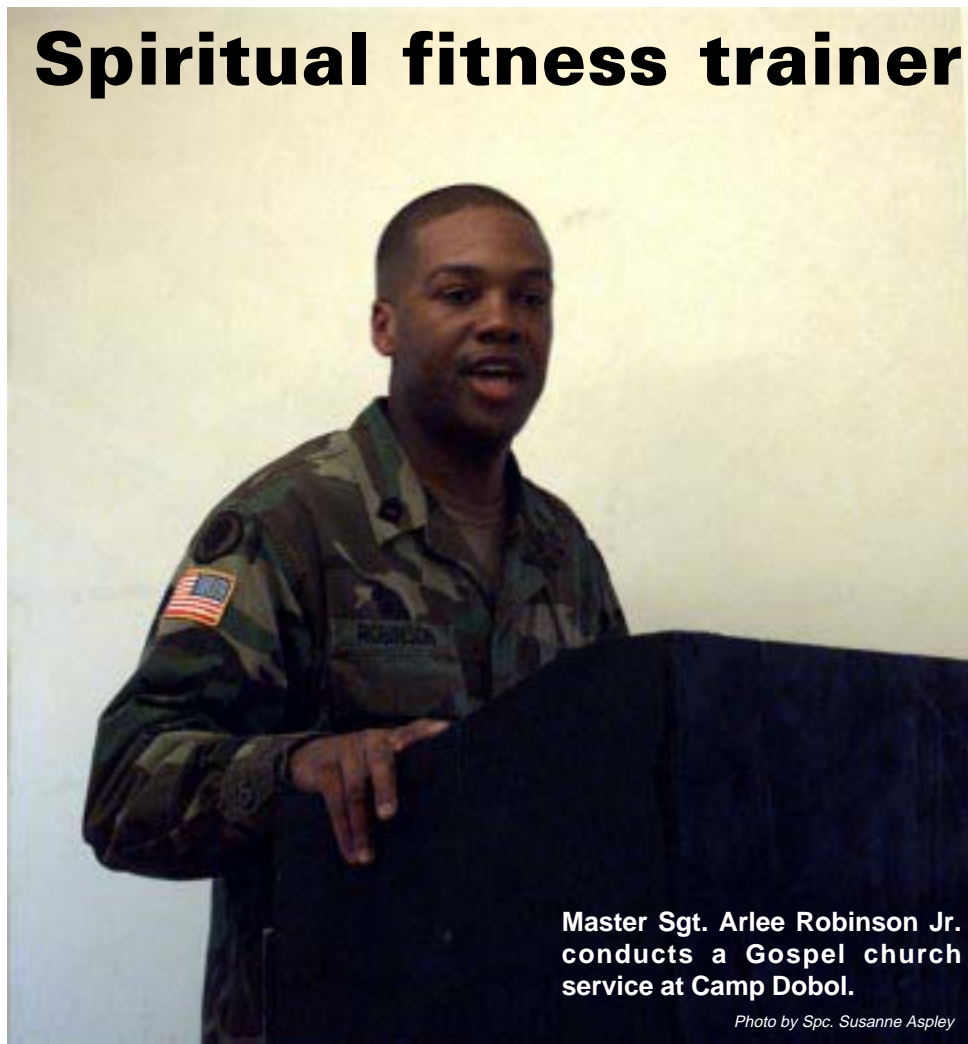
A study conducted by the National Retail Dry Goods Association points out that unsuccessful first attempts lead almost half of all salespeople to certain failure. One-half of all salespeople make one call and stop. One-quarter of all salespeople make two calls and stop. One-sixth of all salespeople make three calls and stop. One-twelfth of all salespeople go back and back and back.

They make 80% of all sales.

The Book of James tells us "we have not because we ask not." Realistically, we ask not because we fear rejection. We fear our mistakes will lead people to dislike us. Therefore we take no risk.

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool. To weep is to risk appearing sentimental. To reach out for another is to risk involvement. To expose feeling is to risk exposing your true self. To place your ideas and your dreams before the crowd is risk their loss. To love is to risk not being loved in return. To live is to risk dying. To hope is to risk despair. To try is to risk failure.— Author unknown

But risk must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing, is nothing. If you're not making mistakes, are you ever taking any risks? Are you trying or are you "playing it safe"?



Master Sgt. Arlee Robinson Jr. conducts a Gospel church service at Camp Dobol.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

There is a legend of an old violin maker who took his young apprentice into the forest to cut wood for the instruments they would soon make. The two left the protected valley where the trees were tall and straight.

"We must climb the crags of the mountainside," said the old man. "That is where the gnarled trunks are twisted by the winds."

The young apprentice asked, "Why don't you choose the straight, smooth trees in the valley?"

Said the old craftsman, "The wood that grows quickly in the sheltered valley breaks under the pressure used to shape the parts of the violin. But not the woods from the mountainside. Those trees, lashed and torn by the winds, produce good, strong, tough wood—the kind that gives sweet music."

Mistakes, we all make them. They help shape and mold us. It's not whether or not we make mistakes, it's what we do with the mistakes we make. God knows I've made my fair share, and I'll make more. But I won't stop trying to make a difference.

Let me close with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson. "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition, to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; this is to have succeeded."

Professionally paranoid

By Sgt. Steven S. Collins
129th MPAD

American soldiers supporting the Stabilization Force's mission need to be "professionally paranoid" in order to protect themselves, their families, and fellow soldiers.

"We have to assume that everyone is listening," said Capt. Edmund J. Barrett, 1st Infantry Division Security Manager. "We need to make soldiers aware that they all work with sensitive information and they need to treat it with care."

"In Bosnia, soldiers encounter local residents, receive mail from family and friends and talk long-distance on commercial and government phones," said Barrett. "Each instance provides an opportunity for sensitive information to leak into the wrong hands."

"People need to take responsibility for what they say and to whom they say it," he said.

Operational security requires soldiers to be aware at all times. For example, when soldiers talk on one of the three types of phone lines available in Bosnia, they cannot be sure of a secure line. The MSE lines are secure, but only in this theater of operations. An MSE phone call to Germany or other points outside Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary is not secure.

"Calls made on IPN or on the ATT commercial lines are not secure, even in this theater of operations," said Barrett.

"It is not at all difficult for someone to listen in on conversations made over those phones," said Barrett. "We must assume that each of the factions are receiving everything we say."

E-mail is another problem. Only the classified e-mail, on the SIPRNET, can be assumed to be secure. Commercial services, such as America Online, as well as unclassified e-mail on Army systems, are not secure. Passwords and other security measures can be bypassed.

Soldiers must always be aware of their

what we say around them."

Even mail soldiers receive from home could offer an opportunity for lapses in operational security. Packages and envelopes are often discarded by soldiers, complete with the soldier's name, rank, social security, and other information. Return addresses to the soldier's family can also be used by unfriendly forces to affect the soldier's performance in theater.

"In past deployments, threat forces, after obtaining return addresses from discarded letters, have written families posing as someone in the soldier's chain of command," Barrett said. "The family would get a letter saying the soldier had been hurt or killed. As you can imagine, that kind of message can be very disruptive."

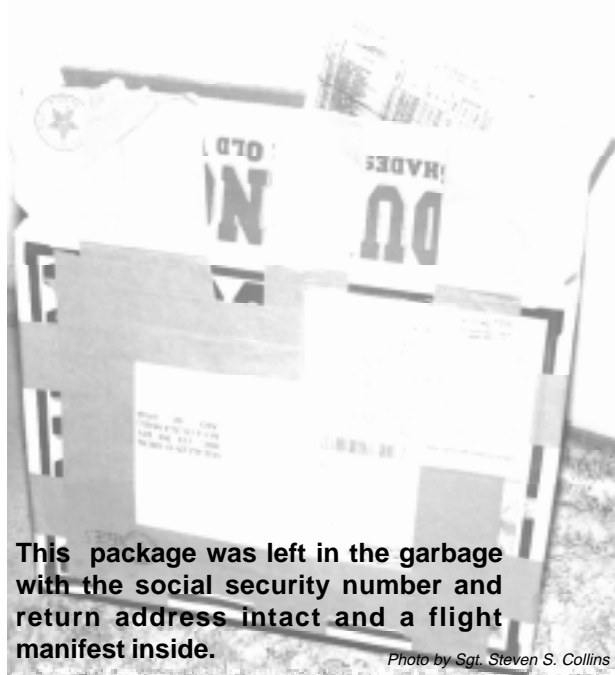
Barrett's office has developed a list of nine items which soldiers should not discuss in an unsecure environment. Those items are:

1. Base camp defense plans;
2. Patrol plans and timing;
3. Specific locations of any vulnerable small element;
4. Troop movement information;
5. Specific information on former warring factions' units and locations;
6. Critical shortages of manning and equipment or troop strengths;
7. Specific details of the rules of engagement;
8. Redeployment/Deployment

schedules;

9. Soldier's personal information (such as social security number or family information).

If soldiers have any questions or concerns about security in and around their base camps, they are encouraged to call Capt. Barrett or his team members at MSE 553-3326.



This package was left in the garbage with the social security number and return address intact and a flight manifest inside.

Photo by Sgt. Steven S. Collins

surroundings. Local residents are often hired at base camps to support the peace-keeping mission. Although these workers may not be reporting on-base activities, soldiers cannot be too careful.

"We can't assume these workers don't speak English, or that they aren't being debriefed by others once they leave the base", said Barrett. "We must be careful

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InfoGraph by the 300th

REED THIS By Sgt. Corwin L. Reed



UUhhh, I really *don't* think that was heater fuel

U.S./Russian Forces Confiscate Serb Tank

By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

A Serb tank was confiscated on Feb. 12 after a technical violation of the Dayton Peace Accord at a Serb weapon storage site east of Brcko in the Russian sector.

The tank, a Russian-built T-55, was driven about 80 meters outside of the compound during minor training activity the day before, said Col. Michael R. Thompson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

"It was not a deliberate attempt to mobilize or anything like that, but it was a technical violation," said Thompson.

Once the violation was discovered by helicopters, U.S. and Russian forces responded, and the local Serb leadership was informed that they would have to hand over the tank for destruction.

"The Serb brigade commander lives in Brcko in my sector and the violation was in the Russian sector," said Thompson. "So, we met here at ten o'clock in the morning with the Russians to escort the tank out, and I was here to assist in the coordination with the Serb brigade commander."

Initial attempts to confiscate the tank



A Serb T-55 tank, confiscated by SFOR forces, leaves its storage site enroute to eventual destruction at the Russian base.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

were hampered by a crowd of over 80 Serb civilians who blocked the entrance to the weapons storage site.

"There's a lot of emotion in this country, a lot of tension," said Thompson. "When we first arrived, there was a gathering of people who probably didn't completely understand the situation, so we took the time to explain what the situation was."

By noon the crowd had been dispersed by senior Serb leaders and the SFOR soldiers were allowed to enter the site and

confiscate the tank with no more incidents.

"This could have been hard or easy and they (the Serbs) took the easy solution," said Thompson. "They understand that militarily they cannot challenge the SFOR soldiers here. They understood here today."

Thompson said that because the violation occurred in their sector, the Russians were tasked with escorting the tank to their base at Ugljevik where it was to be destroyed within 24 hours. Fuel and recovery assets from McGovern supported the operation.

Explosion

from page 1

Karyn Wuensch, platoon leader of the squad on patrol. "But it's fortunate in a way that a civilian car didn't hit the mine because no passengers would've survived," she said.

It was also fortunate for the crew that the gunner was not up in his turret at the time of the blast. The concussion from the blast tore the Squad Automatic Weapon from its mount on top of the vehicle. "I probably would've been hit by shrapnel and been cut up pretty bad," said Tippet, who was the crew gunner that night. The turret hatch, which was unlatched at the time, blew open at the force of the explosion.

All three men credit the armor plating on the crew compartment of the vehicle with saving their lives. This particular model of HMMWV is being field tested in Bosnia. Hardened steel panels reinforced

by ceramic tiles are a protective shield against most common munitions. The windows are a sandwich of resin between plates of bullet-proof plexi-glass.

The right front quarter of the vehicle took the brunt of the blast with the engine compartment being the most severely damaged. From the firewall back, how-

ever, the vehicle is hardly scratched.

until now. The unit is scheduled to move back to Fort Stewart, Ga., in a month. Although the men in his squad are familiar with the territory, Staff Sgt. Mark Ford, convoy commander that night, said the team never allows the routine of patrolling to lull them into a false sense of security. "With the recent decision in Brcko it was our job as

leaders to keep people's minds focused on what they're doing out here," he said.

Ford was riding in the second HMMWV, directly behind the lead vehicle. He said that the intervening time following the explosion was, "the longest ten seconds of my life."

Ford and his driver got out of their own vehicle and moved toward the stricken one. "Spc. Calliotte got out of the vehicle and told us that everyone inside was OK," said Ford. The team radioed back to Camp Colt that there had been an explosion. Back up and emergency assistance crews responded.

"I was in the center of the road and still hit one (a mine). You've always got to be aware,"

----- Pfc. Jason Garland

ever, the vehicle is hardly scratched.

The 293rd MP Co. has been in Bosnia for seven months now. Callicotte estimates he must have driven this same stretch of road 40 times without incident